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The Maryland Fruit Grower

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THINNING

We know the benefit of thinning in obtaining better size, color and flavor; in preventing tree breakage, and in reducing the cull crop. There isn't a lot new to add about apples, but in peach thinning, Dr. M. J. Dorsey of Illinois, speaking before Michigan State Horticultural Society (71st annual Report, 1941) stated that peaches first form the entire number of fruit cells, then expand these cells in some cases 10,000 times their original size. He figured the average mature peach tree should carry about 1200 fruits, yielding about 6 bushels of 2¼ inch fruits. In a bushel (50 lbs.) of peaches he figured 480 peaches 1¼ inches diameter; 243 peaches 2 inches diameter; 222 peaches 2¼ inches diameter; 169 2½ inch peaches; 126 2¾ inch peaches and about 96 3-inch peaces. Dr. Dorsey reported unthinned 14 year old Elberta trees producing 7 bushels, averaging about 3200 fruits per tree and 500 fruits per bushel. On a thinned block the yield was 7 to 8 bushels or about 800 to 900 fruits per tree, averaging about 2¾ inches.

In the Fruit Products Journal, October 1941, Caldwell, Moon, Culpepper and Myers reported that fruits from 12 pairs of 7 year old peach trees representing 12 varieties and selected for uniformity showed, among other things, that "fruit from the thinned trees was distinctly superior in sweetness, in balance between sugar, acidity, and astringency and in fullness and appeal of flavor of the fresh fruit". In the canned samples there was no difference in texture of flesh, but "the thinned fruit was distinctly superior in size, color and attractiveness."

OUR JOB

We can't all carry guns but we can help in the war effort by doing without and cooperating in the various civilian defense organizations. There's a small job for every one. Find it and do it. Grumble if you like. It's an old American custom. Then grin and get busy. We need less fire in speeches and more speeches in the fire. Remember Pearl Harbor. Think of Bataan. Remember America, too. We are all a part of it. Listen to this! The O.P.M. estimates that on American farms today, there is enough scrap junk rusting away to build 139 modern 35,000 ton battleships or 136,250 light tanks, or 50 million 50-caliber machine guns or 5 million 2,000-pound aerial bombs—enough to drop 3 a minute from our Flying Fortresses incessantly for 3 years. Here's a nice community or county job. Let's drop that old corn planter and that busted wringer right in the middle of Berlin public square. Any junk metal, paper or rubber are badly needed.

APPLE USES

"Eighty-five Ways of Using Apples", Extension Bulletin 202, may be obtained from Agricultural Extension Service, Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio.

CODLING MOTH AND PEACH TREE BORER

We have heard of disbudding and dehorning trees. Now let's demoth and worm-proof our apple trees. First, thorough and timely spraying is essential. Where moths were heavy, last year scrape the trees, and apply beta naphthol treated corrugated paper bands by June 15. If labor shortage prevents banding, spray all the better.

Remove those mounds from the peach trees soon as possible. The peach borer which greatly resembles a wasp, lives over winter on the peach tree, and does damage up until it leaves the tree in late spring. It spins a cocoon near the tree base, and in about 3 weeks emerges as an adult moth. Emergence may occur from mid-June to mid-September but the heaviest emergence is about late July. Eggs are usually laid at the ground level of the tree, and the worms that hatch work right into the tree. If the soil is mounded about the tree, the borers will be working too high above ground to be killed by the crystal gas or ethylene dichloride treatments. The oil-PDB treatment may be used either as a spray or as treatment at base of the tree, but be sure to mix it properly, and apply enough liquid to carry proper amount of PDB. If mounding is to be done on high injuries, that's more work to cover the infested parts. Level off those mounds and keep the injury at or below ground level.

NATIONAL PEACH COUNCIL

Displacing the Peach Merchandising Committee formed last year, the National Peach Council was formed at Charlotte, N. C. on April 9, at which time Carroll R. Miller, Martinsburg, West Virginia was elected President and Treasurer; Troy A. Cribb Spartansburg, S. C., Vice-President; and L. E. Newcomer, Boyertown, Pa., Secretary. The States of Virginia, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, South Carolina, Maryland, West Virginia and Tennessee are active in the Council, Georgia and North Carolina being unable to join up this year for diverse reasons. Joseph G. Harrison, Berlin, is Maryland Committee Chairman. The plan is to receive voluntary subscriptions from growers at the rate of 1c per bushel of peaches sold. The budget is $6,145.00 allowing for Peach Recipe Service with prints; radio, 5 cities 21 times, 7 weeks, 1 minute transcription; 500 "Programs for Peaches"; 50,000 posters, and for incidental expenses. The work will be done through Appalachian Apple Service offices, separate from the apple promotional work. The plan will be one-third national advertising and two-thirds regional promotion. Maryland's share of the budget is $200.00. This is a worthy effort and should be supported by peach growers. There is a big increase ahead in peach production, and publicity will go a long way toward moving the crop. Growers should support efforts to market their crop. Make subscriptions to any of the following: D. E. Rinehart, G. W. Gardenhour, O. R. Higgins, D. T. Walker, W. Lee Allen, Eugene Scott, S. M. Fulton, or A. F. Vierheller.

NAILS

Due to fine work by several industries, nails will be available for necessary work. National Apple Institute worked on this matter for the fruit industry. Now we can repair those field crates and nail our apple boxes together. But don't over-buy, for the nail supply is limited.

Summing up the peach deal, Mr. Porter R. Taylor, Chief of Fruits & Vegetable Division of S.M.A., stated that earlier bloom had probably added a week to the marketing period; last year's publicity efforts had a carry-over effect; the Stamp Plan would probably move a lot of peaches; purchasing power is up; retailers make money from fresh fruit sales; and the coming vote in the Carolinas on peach marketing agreements, if carried, would reduce the poor shipments from that area. On the adverse side, sugar, transportation and labor might offer their problems. If we can see the picture correctly there will be considerable increase in future peach crops and we must all help in getting market machinery working to absorb the crop in any way possible.

Thirty-seven persons were present at the meeting, representing chain stores, produce associations, supermarkets, U. S. Department of Agriculture, State Horticultural Societies, State Extension Services, growers, and fruit handlers.

Among resolutions passed were those: requesting Office of Defense Transportation to reconsider ruling that trucks carry a 75% return load, as this was not always possible with refrigerated trucks carrying perishables; that all growers everywhere do their utmost to deliver well-graded, standardized packs to the market; that the sugar rationing be so designed to give reasonable amounts of sugar for canning, based on a need basis rather than a flat per person basis, as a mean of food preservation and waste prevention.

In addition to all of the above publicity methods, the Council will follow its own plans of posters, radio, recipes, etc., and these plans will be correlated to a great extent with State Extension Services, Horticultural Societies, and the commercial trade.

News

Mr. Porter R. Taylor who has been closely associated with fruit growers in S.M.A. fruit purchases, and whose advice in apple and peach marketing plans has been of great value to the fruit growers, is leaving the Government service May 15 to become General Manager of the Cooperative Fruit & Vegetable Association with headquarters in Washington, D. C.

Cold Storage Holdings, May 1, 1942.

Agricultural Marketing Administration, U. S. Department of Agriculture, states in the May 15 report that on May 1, the apple holdings were 2.5 million bushels less than May 1, 1941, and 1.2 million bushels below average. The holdings were:

	May 1. 5 yr. average 1937-41	May 1, '41	April 1, '42	May 1, '42
Barrels	17,000	14,000	10,000	3,000
Western Boxes	2,366,000	2,781,000	5,150,000	2,466,000
Eastern Boxes (incl. with bu baskets)		1,630,000	1,530,000	578,000
Bushel Baskets	2,305,000	1,544,000	1,497,000	491,000
Total	4,722,000	5,997,000	8,207,000	3,544,000 **

** 120,000 bushels and boxes held by S.M.A. are included in this total.

A. F. Vierheller,
Extension Horticulturist.

Notes on National Peach Council Meeting

Hotel Benjamin Franklin, Philadelphia, Pa., May 14, 1942

The Council is composed of peach growers of Virginia, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, South Carolina, Maryland, West Virginia, and Tennessee. Georgia and North Carolina were unable to affiliate this season due to diverse reasons. The object of the Council is to publicize peaches. Supporting funds are voluntary, and a budget has been set up for 1942 activities.

President Carroll R. Miller presided. Indicated crop prospects showed a possible increase in crop over 1941. Peak crop movement was considered, in order to plan best time of launching the publicity plans.

It was felt reasonable to expect some Government assistance in case of a distress market. Last year about 14,000 tons of peach pulp were sent overseas, but less will be sent in 1942, as strawberry and apricot are more desirable. Eastern peaches are not adapted to drying, but some research in drying these peaches is now being done. The Stamp Plan will probably take some of the retail peaches. Since school lunches will not be in effect, there cannot be the outlet for peaches that is possible with apples through this channel.

In discussion of the sugar ration, it was felt that there may be some easing of rations, but this is not definite, and the increase would be only slight. Transportation is a factor. The sugar stock in the East is not heavy, and transportation is the limiting factor. Corn syrup may be used to some extent as is being planned by commercial canners. Some research is in progress in use of minimum amounts of sugar. Commercial canners are cutting their sugar use 10%. Caution was advised in setting canning sugar requirements too low, as it may cause spoilage and waste with a bad reaction on 1943 peach home canning. It was stated that yellow peaches rank second only to apricots in Vitamin A content.

Two encouraging factors in marketing were that grocery shelves are low on canned fruits, and average income is higher, encouraging more purchases, especially of better grade fruits.

Running peaches through the auction market was felt to be an impossibility as most peach growers demand f.o.b. prices, and no consignments.

Commercial concerns will help in publicity of peach uses. Kellog will feature corn flakes and peaches in their advertising. General Mills will feature peach shortcake, and Shredded Wheat with peaches will be advertised. Atlantic Commission Company, representing A & P Stores, will run home-canning recipes or stress fresh peaches if sugar is short. They plan a 3 week "spot" on radio covering 50 stations. Their sales forces will be instructed in pushing peach sales, and with 12,000 window signs, and use of 4 x 4 posters in stores, some good results are expected.

Independent Retail Grocers will carry a program, and with less items for sale they expect more fresh fruit sales. The Pennsylvania Chain Stores Council promised full support of peach publicity, and National Association of Food Chains expects to do the best that they have ever done in peach publicity. National Fresh Fruits and Vegetable Association will cooperate fully. Representatives of these organizations were present and made a plea that GROWERS send good fruit to market to avoid any lag in peach purchases. Poor fruit in the early part of the market season usually has affected the whole season's sales.

Transportation was reviewed and it was felt that refrigerator cars would be available but receivers should release them as soon as possible.

These Apples brought $1.00 per bushel!

THESE APPLES are a total loss from hail damage. Yet they brought $1.00 per bushel because the grower was far-sighted. In the spring, when his crop was set, he covered it with Hail Insurance. Nobody expected hail. When hail struck, like a blitzkrieg from the sky, he collected the amount of the damage. Other growers in the neighborhood lost a year's work.

Will you be protected when hail strikes your orchard? Hail will come sooner or later. No section of the country is immune. Average U. S. figures show that *the hail hazard is three times greater than the fire hazard.* If you can't remember your last hail storm, you will never forget the next one!

The average cost of Hail Insurance is only about four bushels of apples for each $100.00 in coverage. The few apples you invest in Hail Insurance may be the most valuable part of your crop. They may represent your income from a whole year's work. They may mean the difference between success and failure.

Hail Insurance is your only protection against hail!

GET THE FACTS AND YOU'LL GET PROTECTION

Ask your local insurance agent for the free booklet "Protecting Your Cost of Production," or obtain your copy, without cost or obligation, by writing your name and address on the back of a penny post card and mailing it to:

G. L. BOOKER
Superintendent, Hail Dept.
90 John Street, New York, N. Y.

THE AETNA FIRE GROUP — THE NORTH AMERICAN COMPANIES — THE SPRINGFIELD FIRE GROUP

LONG DISTANCE WARNING

Those little apples on the trees have a long way to go before picking, but the selling end of our business is where we make or break. Spraying and thinning must be done if a paying crop is harvested. The Federal Food and Drug Administration intends to enforce the spray residue tolerances. All growers must be sure that no visible residue appears on fruit, and remember that chemical tests will be made also. Plan the spray schedule carefully. Don't short-cut or experiment unless sure of the results. Fruit washers are not being made and even repair parts may be impossible to obtain. From evidence obtained by U. S. Public Health Service (Bulletin 267, "A Study of the Effect of Lead Arsenate Exposure on Orchardists and Consumers of Sprayed Fruit") we are almost certain that sprayed fruit is not dangerous even if not cleaned, but law is law, and we have tolerance to meet if fruit is to be marketed.

And by-products of fruit will be watched too. Filthy, dirty, wormy fruit will not be tolerated in cider and vinegar for interstate shipment. Last year some growers had cider seized for dirty contents. Canners will tighten up on canner grades. They have tolerances to meet. Wormy apples will have hard going in any trade channel. Truckers will be fewer, and they won't move many wormy apples in these days of rubber and gasoline shortage. What about culls? Try to thin them off, if possible, but there will still be some for harvest. Use clean sound ones for cider and dump the rest. Don't take chances.

WAGE-HOUR CONFERENCE

On March 28th nineteen growers and representatives from the Virginias, Pennsylvania, and Maryland met with Mr. L. Metcalf Walling, Wage-Hour Administrator in Washington, and asked that the Law be interpreted so as to relieve present hardships on fruit growers in their packing house operations. In some sections, smaller growers have their fruit packed in a nearby packing house If a group of growers form a cooperative group and pack in a common packing house, they come under the Law, and must pay the minimum established wage rate. The grower who packs for his neighbor, even at actual cost also comes under the Law. Growers who pack their own fruit, no matter how many miles hauled to the packing house or how many persons employed are exempt. But in any houses where packing is done for others besides the actual owner, employment of over ten persons brings the packer under the Law. The conference asked Mr. Walling to have the Law interpreted so as to eliminate the number of 10 employees. Mr. Walling promised to review the matter and render a decision in the near future. One grower showed that under the Law, his packing costs had increased 11% or about 26c more per barrel. In the meantime, the S.M.A. had increased their price 10c per bushel. Mr. W. S. Campfield of the Virginia Horticultural Society, arranged the conference. The Horticultural Societies of West Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Maryland were represented by C. R. Miller, L. E. Newcomer, and A. F. Vierheller. Mr. Sam Fraser of International Apple Association gave support to arguments, and growers from the Cumberland-Shenandoah area explained the growers' problems in the case.

So you want to pass the "buck". It will buy War Stamps.

KILL the Codling Moth Worms

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PROTECT-O COLD-DIPPED BETA NAPTHOL

TREE BANDS

PROTECT-O-BANDS KILL 98%

of the Worms entering them.

Contact the Winchester Office for prices

Read's Cold-Dipped Beta Napthol TREE BANDS

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IDEAS IN SPRAYING CHECK-UP

J. D. and Homer Coffing, Covington, Indiana, reporting in Indiana Horticultural Society proceedings, 1940, had difficulty in getting the tops of trees covered when spraying from the ground, using stationary spray system. They did not want to use a movable rig, to "top off" the spraying, so they established a certain per cent coverage, and paid the spraymen an hour bonus of a few cents if the men obtained this per cent coverage. A 95% coverage was considered best obtainable, and 90% coverage was the established standard paying the men a bonus. Each day's spraying was mapped out, and each sprayman was given a number. Sample limbs were sprayed as nearly perfectly as possible. These served as standards. During the morning, all sections were visited, and samples from poorest covered limbs were brought in. The samples were placed in cans of wet sand or sawdust, each with the number of the man spraying the block. At noon, each man could see what kind of spraying he was doing. Another sample was collected during the afternoon and placed in the cans, for evening inspection. More interest and personal rivalry developed. The men were told to cover the trees, and not worry about gallonage used. Where some men averaged 75% on the first spray, they soon reached 90 to 95%, sometimes in a day or two. Spray gallonage increased about 25% over the previous year.

Some men complained of loss of pressure in the lines, so one man was appointed to visit each of the 15 spraymen 3 times a day, to check pressure at the nozzles. It was stated, "We found some lines with low pressure. Soybean flour was clogging some of the lines. We disconnected and ran a pipe through those lines. Then we got the idea of running a steel valve ball through the lines, disconnecting at the pump and inserting the ball. The ball was about 1/16 inch smaller than the pipe. With pressure behind it, it had to go somewhere. It even turned corners and took the material with it. If the ball stuck it could be located by the noise it made. It was surprising the amount of residue that the ball would loosen and send out the open end of the pipe. We found that the ball would get stuck where the pipe joint was not reamed, but soon this trouble was remedied.".

TOO MANY PACKAGES

Following a conference of trade organizations, grower representatives, and federal officials, citrus growers agreed to reduce the number and style of containers from 29 to 15; the vegetable growers from 310 to 96; and deciduous fruit growers from 269 to 138. In all cases, some packages were to be considered for later elimination. Apple growers still have the standard barrel and half-barrel; the bushel and half-bushel basket and the hampers of same capacities; several types of Western bushel boxes and several types of Eastern boxes. These boxes need further revision. Both panel and solid end boxes are allowed. Fibre box cell-packs in 12 sizes are retained. Of 88 apple packages now used possibly 53 will be eliminated in time.

MARYLAND FRUIT CROPS

Maryland Crop Reporting Service gives the following figures for 1941 fruit production: apples (commercial) 2,070,000 bushels; peaches 462,000 bushels; pears 97,000 bushels; grapes 680 tons.

Have you read the advertisments?

FIGURES AND ADVERTISING

Appleland News published in Washington State tells of the fine work of Washington State Apple Commission in moving the apple crop by advertising. They bemoan a pitiful budget of $220,000 subscribed by growers under the state law. Eastern growers are spoiled by millions of dollars worth of free advertising by meat and flour institutes, chain stores, and even United Fruit Company which sells bananas, mostly, yet have had wonderful radio programs on apples. Appalachian Apple Service, Martinsburg, West Virginia, is supported by voluntary growers subscriptions on basis of 1c per bushel of apples sold. In 5 years it has done an excellent job. This year's budget is $24,000, and that is to be subscribed by growers in 4 states. Help sell your crop. Write the Service for subscription blank and instructions.

ARMY DESSERTS

A recent survey showed that of all desserts served in army posts apple pie led in popularity. This has long been the case in lunch-room and restaurant sales.

THE LABOR SITUATION

The Maryland Farm Labor Report, released April 17, indicates that war and industry are taking heavy toll of experienced farm labor. Long hours, exchanged labor and machinery and use of younger and older men and boys also farmettes are being used. Monthly wage with board averaged $36.75 or $6.50 more than a year ago. Without board $54.00 or $10.75 more than a year ago. Day labor with board averaged $1.95 or 40c increase over 1941; without board $2.50 or 45c over 1941. On April 1, about 71,000 people were employed on about 40,000 Maryland farms, of which 45,000 were family workers and 26,000 were hired labor. Labor supply was 60% and demand 98% of normal. Quality of labor, willingness, wage rates, etc. affect these figures. Farm labor supply has dropped about 14% in the year, with greatest decline in west and north central counties. About 29% of farm people worked on farms and 71% were otherwise employed, available for farm work, aged, infirm, or children. Three percent of farm population were available for farm work, 90% were over 24 years of age, and 85% were males.

FERTILIZERS

About April 24th, the order went out that no mixed fertilizers manufactured after that time would contain more than 3% nitrogen. It was hoped that the figure could be raised to 4% to include some of the present Maryland standard mixtures, but we are not sure that this change will be allowed. If only 3% nitrogen is used in mixed fertilizers, the following Maryland recommendations of mixed fertilizers will be out of the picture: 5-10-5 for peas, beans, sweet corn and strawberries; 5-8-12 for melons, cucumbers, and tomatoes; 6-8-6 for early potatoes, asparagus, leafy vegetables, and cannery peas; 4-12-4 for pastures; 10-6-4 for vegetable crop side-dressing and for orchard use.

"It costs me $5,000 a year to live."
"Don't you pay it. It's not worth it."

WIN THE ALL-OUT WAR AGAINST CODLING MOTH

D-X plus Arsenate of Lead KILLS LARVAE BEFORE THEY ENTER FRUIT

D-X plus Arsenate of Lead KILLS ADULT MOTHS BY CONTACT

DX GIVES ARSENATE OF LEAD EXTRA KILLING POWER

D-X in combination with arsenate of lead produces amazing control wherever used. It impregnates arsenate of lead with rotenone and pyrethrum giving it the extra killing power necessary for effective control.

J. H. F. says:—"With D-X and arsenate of lead in 1941 I have the cleanest fruit I have grown since codling moth became a factor in our orchard."

W .R. C. says:—"Every time I use D-X and arsenate of lead I become more enthused over its control. Without it I lost 35% from codling moth, with it my fruit in 1941 was U. S. No. 1 orchard run."

Use D-X in your orchard—this year—use two sprays for the first broods, and (if necessary) two for the second brood. D-X needs only to reduce your losses 5% to more than pay for these sprays.

Write Department "F" for Pratt's new Codling Moth folder, today. Buy now while the supply is assured.

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